

VACUUMS, DESPOTS, AND COVID-19

April 26, 2020

Aristotle said, "Nature abhors a vacuum," meaning that every space in nature needs to be filled with something. This isn't only true about black holes; it is true of the human soul. Jesus identified this truth by telling a strange story of an exorcism gone bad. But upon closer examination, we discover that Jesus' warning is about much more than exorcism. He is warning us about the empty spaces in our lives and the consequences of ignoring those vacancies. Join us for part five of Pause as we consider the vacuum that has been created as a result of COVID-19 and how we can avoid the dangerous consequences of the void.

Passage (READ):

Matthew 12:43-45

Principles (KNOW):

Nature abhors a vacuum and so does your _____ .

Practices (DO):

Filling the vacuum:

Take every _____
(2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

Practice _____
(James 5:16)

Invite _____ to _____
(Psalm 63:1)

"There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ." - Blaise Pascal

"If I find myself with a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." - C. S. Lewis

SUGGESTED READING LIST FOR "PAUSE":

40 Days to Lasting Change: An AHA Challenge, Kyle Idleman

40 Days of Purpose, Rick Warren

A Call to Die, David Nasser

Emotionally Healthy Spirituality, Peter Scazzero

Emotionally Healthy Spirituality Day by Day, Peter Scazzero

Ninety Days with the Disciple Jesus Loves, Gary Lee Webber

My Utmost for His Highest, Oswald Chambers

Morning and Evening, Charles Spurgeon

Other sermons you may want to check out at ssbc.org

Awakening (2015)

Prayer Journey (2018)

One (2017)

Boundaries (2019)



TEXT

Text the word UPDATE to 904-441-8650 to stay up to date on what's going on at Southside.

GIVE

You can give online through ssbc.org, directly through your financial institution, or through the mail. Call the church office if you need more information.

WATCH US LIVE

Join us LIVE! on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. on

- Facebook
- YouTube
- ssbc.org

Dial-A-Sermon is a new resource we've made available. Just call 904-447-3021.

If you would like a CD of Sunday's message, please call the church office to request one.

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (WEEK OF APRIL 26-MAY 2, 2020)

HANGOUT (Warming up to the topic)

1. Do you have any lingering questions or thoughts related to this week's teaching or daily readings?
2. Blaise Pascal said, "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ." Why do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Today we will discuss biblical examples of how Israel's first two kings responded to their own vacuums.

HEAR (Listening to God through scripture)

3. Read 1 Samuel 13:1-15.
 - What was Saul waiting on and what made it hard to wait?
 - How should Saul have responded to the "pause"? What might have filled his vacuum if he had waited on Samuel?
 - Have you ever felt "out of time," but still unsure of what God would have you do? How did you respond? What was the outcome?
4. Read 1 Samuel 28:1-20.
 - What "vacuum" was Saul trying to fill and how did he try to fill it?
 - This once mighty king, selected by God to rule His people, has finally resorted to disguising himself and seeking the help of a common soothsayer. Is there any connection between Saul's failure in chapter 13 at the beginning of his reign and this example near the end?
 - Have you ever lacked the adequate knowledge to make an important decision, but still had to make the decision? What did you do? What was the outcome?
5. Read 2 Samuel 11:1-26.
 - What "vacuum" existed in David's life? How was it created? How did he try to fill it?
 - Read 1 Chronicles 3:1-9. God had established a law against polygamy (Deuteronomy 17:14-17), but there are several examples of kings violating that command throughout the scripture. What clues do David's polygamy and his adulterous relationship with Bathsheba offer us about the condition of David's soul?
 - You do not have to be alone to be lonely. Do you believe loneliness is evidence of a vacuum in our lives? What are some unhealthy things people use to try to fill that vacuum? What is the purpose of that vacuum and how can God fill it?

HUDDLE (Making it personal and praying together - in huddles)

6. Are you struggling with loneliness right now? Do you feel hard pressed in any area of your life? What vacuums are you trying to fill and how are you trying to fill them? Talk about it, invite accountability, and take time to pray.

DAILY READING:

Thursday: 1 Samuel 28

Monday: Psalm 63

Friday: 2 Samuel 11-12

Tuesday: John 5

Saturday: 1 Kings 18

Wednesday: 1 Samuel 13

Sunday: 1 Kings 19